Lisa N. Johnson Joins Oak Park-River Forest Community Foundation Board of Directors

Oak Park, IL (October 8, 2021) — The Oak Park-River Forest Community Foundation is pleased to welcome Oak Park resident Lisa N. Johnson to its board of directors.

“Lisa brings a wealth of financial management experience to the board, as well as a passion for giving back to the community,” said Bruce Wojack, Community Foundation board chair. “Her experience and perspective will be valuable as we advance the Foundation’s vision for the West Cook region.”

“I believe there is a real role for the Community Foundation to increase philanthropy in the community,” Johnson said. “Philanthropic dollars are increasing, but the number of philanthropic people is decreasing. We can help change that.”

Johnson most recently served as chief financial officer of RareiTi, an international startup that provides customized managed access, compassionate use and medicines management programs designed for rare disease therapies, guided by real world evidence and data. Before joining RareiTi, she was chief operating officer of Lamar Johnson Collaborative (LJC), the architecture and design firm she and her husband Lamar cofounded in 2017, which grew to 30 professionals and attained positive cash flow within its first year. She negotiated the sale of a majority interest in the firm and oversaw integration with the operations of its new parent entity. Prior to LJC, Johnson was Midwest division manager at Wells Fargo and served as head of the bank’s Chicago leadership team, the culmination of a 35-year career with the bank.

In addition to the Community Foundation, Johnson sits on the board of United Way of Metropolitan Chicago and is an active member of the Chicago Network and the Economic Club of Chicago, and has previously served as a trustee of the Chicago Zoological Society, where she remains a governing member ambassador, and as president of the Chicago/Midwest chapter of the Turnaround Management Association, dedicated to turning around troubled companies.

The Johnsons live in northeast Oak Park and are members of Fair Oaks Presbyterian Church, where Lisa serves as a deacon. They have three grown children who now reside on the East Coast.
“When we first moved to Oak Park from Denver in 1997, the first organization I volunteered with and the first check I wrote was to PADS, now Housing Forward, because it was meeting the needs of the community at such a basic level,” Johnson said. Today her volunteer and philanthropic work includes pro bono consulting with Austin Coming Together (ACT) on development of the Aspire Center for Workforce Innovation, and volunteering with Housing Forward and Cluster Tutoring. She is also a member of the Community Foundation’s Women Leaders in Philanthropy giving group.

“We are delighted that Lisa has joined the Community Foundation’s board,” said OPRFCF President and CEO Antonio Martinez, Jr. “Her depth of experience with community-oriented philanthropy and her enthusiasm for helping neighbors are tremendous assets to our organization and the Oak Park-River Forest area at large.”

Community Foundation board members serve three-year terms.

About the Oak Park-River Forest Community Foundation

Founded in 1959, The Oak Park-River Forest Community Foundation has built lasting, impactful connections among area residents and locally-based service programs. Today as an integral presence in the community, the Community Foundation focuses on helping its donors identify and achieve their long-term philanthropic goals, and providing grants and leadership support to organizations working to effect positive change in Oak Park, River Forest and surrounding neighborhoods in western Cook County. Learn more about the Community Foundation’s programs and services online at oprcf.org.

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